

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 16-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0155740 to Sawada *et al.* ("Sawada"). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Sawada does not disclose or suggest at least the second engagement portion being adapted to have said connecting member arranged therein, as recited in claim 16. The Examiner alleges that Sawada discloses this feature at paragraphs 0042-0046 and Fig. 4.

Sawada merely discloses that flexible wired board 36 is led out from board 29A of first apparatus 29 to board 31A of second apparatus 31 (paragraph 0045; Fig. 4). Sawada does not disclose the manner or mechanism by which the flexible wired board 36 is led out from the first apparatus 29 through coupling device 21 to the second apparatus 31. Therefore, Sawada does not disclose an element corresponding to the second engagement portion (Application Fig. 8, 202) being adapted to have said connecting member (Application Fig. 8, 106) arranged therein, as recited in the claim.

Since the Examiner has not established the structure of Sawada corresponding to the second engagement portion as set forth in claim 16, Sawada does not anticipate the claim. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over Sawada. Claims 17-39, which depend from claim 16, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

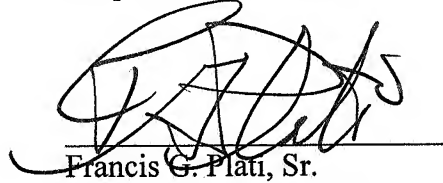
Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 10/801,575

Atty. Docket No. Q78525

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis G. Plati, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

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